

Los Angeles Festival

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LOS ANGELES FESTIVAL CHINESE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Kun opera, films by Hou Hsiao-hsien, Dai Sijie, and Shu Kei; Chinatown's first Moon Festival in 40 years, John Adams' opera "Nixon in China" and other outstanding arts programs will place Chinese culture in the spotlight of the 1990 Los Angeles Festival. Third in the series of international festivals, preceded by the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival and the 1987 Los Angeles Festival, the 1990 Festival will herald what Festival Director Peter Sellars calls "the Pacific Century."

Scheduled for September 1 - 16, the 1990 Festival celebrates the cultures of the people of Los Angeles and Los Angeles with particular focus on those of the Pacific -- Asia, Latin America, Oceania and the Far North. Over 1400 of the the world's finest artists from 21 nations -- many from the Pacific region -- who are creating in traditional and nontraditional forms of dance, theater, music, visual art, literature, film and video have been invited to participate, including some 800 artists from the L.A. area.

During the 1990 Los Angeles Festival community members will have the opportunities to take pride in the achievements of master artists from abroad and here, as well as to sample the great diversity of artistic expressions from their neighbors. According to Sellars, "A Festival can often be the occasion for business, the arts and government to come together to address the issues of social movement at the local community and global community levels."

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KUN OPERA

Sept 8-9, 8pm Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo
Adm. \$20, \$15

Dating back to the time of Shakespeare, China's Kun opera has been regarded for centuries as the epitome of elegance and refinement among the Chinese performing arts. The Kun opera artists, dressed in silks and jeweled headdresses, and wearing fantastic makeup, bring to life the heroic, supernatural and romantic figures of China's literary and mythological past. Kun opera was banned during the Cultural Revolution, but artists have struggled to keep its place in China's contemporary artistic life. Several Kun opera artists from China currently live in the U.S., including Madam Hua Wenyi, winner of China's highest artistic honor, the Plum Blossom Award. To the lilting melodies of bamboo flutes, butterfly harps and plucked lutes, the artists will perform the greatest masterpieces from the Kun repertoire, including "Peony Pavilion." China's most prominent playwright, Cao Yu, once said of Kun opera, "Such melodies could exist in heaven. How many times can we hear them on earth?"

"A CITY OF SADNESS" - HOU HSIAO-HSIEN RETROSPECTIVE

Sept 1, 8pm Laemmle Grand, 349 S. Figueroa St., Downtown
Gen.Adm. \$7

Sept 3, 8pm Melnitz Hall, UCLA Campus, Westwood Gen Adm \$7

Born in China, raised in Taiwan, Hou Hsiao-hsien has spent nearly 20 years acting in, writing, and directing films. His eighth and most recent work, "A City of Sadness", which won the Golden Lion at this year's Venice Film Festival, is an epic remembrance of the tumultuous 1940s when Taiwan returned to Chinese control and the repression of political subversives began. To the shifting landscape of history and politics, Hou brings his characteristic warmth, humor and poetry. "What really interests me are people. I am emotional about people. Only people move me." Also included in the retrospective are "Fenggui Lai de Ren" (The Boys from Fenquei), "Juishi Liuliu de Ta" (Cute Girls), "Feng'er Tita Cai" (Cheerful Wind), "Nilouhe Juer" (Daughter of the Nile),

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"Lien Lien Fung Chen" (Dust in the Wind), "Dong Dong de Jiaqi" (Summer at Grandpa's), "Zai Na Hepan Qing Cao Qing" (The Green, Green Grass of Home), "Tong Nien Wang Shi" (A Time to Live, A Time to Die) and "Erzi de Da Wan'ou" (The Sandwich Man).

Hou Hsiao-hsien's fellow Taiwanese filmmaker and "A City of Sadness" director of photography, Shu Kei, will be present at the screenings.

"SUNLESS DAYS" - SHU KEI

Sept 2, 8pm Melnitz Hall, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., Westwood

Gen. Adm. \$7

Filmmaker Shu Kei will attend the screening of the U.S. premiere of his documentary "Meiyou Traiyang Derizi" (Sunless Days) which probes the reactions in Hong Kong to last year's brutal events in Mainland China. In light of the approaching return of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China, the citizens reveal their fears about the future and the increasing desire to emigrate before the changes takes place.

"CHINA MY SORROW" - DAI SIJIE

Sept 6, 8pm Laemmle Grand, 349 S. Figueroa St., Downtown

Gen. Adm. \$7

Expatriate film director Dai Sijie will be present for a special screening of his first feature, "China My Sorrow." The autobiographical film chronicles the story of a 13-year old boy sentenced to a re-education center during the Cultural Revolution for the crime of listening to a banned recording of a love song. Filmed entirely in the French countryside, the cast are all non-professionals, many of them fellow refugees with stories rivalling the one told in the film.

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"THE CHINESE CHESS PIECE" - MAY SUN and GUY GIARRIZZO

Sept. 6-9, 8pm Hollywood Methodist Church, 6817 Franklin Ave.,
Hollywood Gen. Adm. \$15

In The Chinese Chess Piece, Shanghai-born MAY SUN, one of Los Angeles' most important visual and performance artists, creates a new work in collaboration with acclaimed writer-director Guy Giarrizzo. Staged on a large mock Chinese chess board, the performance deals with the opposing forces of oppression and revolution, reality and illusion, and the personal and historical, as personified by the lives of pioneering Chinese and Chinese-American women.

"NIXON IN CHINA"

Sept 11*,14,29 & Oct 6 8pm, Sept 16 & Oct 7, 2pm Dorothy Chandler
Pavilion 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown Adm. \$80, \$55, \$37, \$20,
*Sept. 11 performance only \$75, \$50, \$32, \$15 Presented by the Los
Angeles Music Center Opera

In "Nixon in China", a group of American artists reflect on Western perceptions of the Cultural Revolution from afar and up close. Chairman Mao dances. Pat Nixon dreams. Composer John Adams and librettist Alice Goodman's gentle, comic, surreal opera will receive its West Coast premiere by the Los Angeles Music Center Opera. Directed by Peter Sellars, with choreography by Mark Morris.

**"THE REVOLUTION WILL BE TELEVISED: VIDEO DOCUMENTS FROM
POPULAR MOVEMENTS IN ASIA"**

Sept 1, 12pm American Film Institute, 2021 N. Western Ave. Hollywood
Gen Adm. \$5

Five one-hour compilations of small-format video programs by independent producers in conjunction with the movements for democracy and social change in five areas of Asia, including

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China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The series is curated by Shu Lea Cheang and presented by Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE).

For immediate ticket information to these and other ticketed Festival events, call (213) 623-7400. Beginning August 3, tickets can be obtained at Ticketmaster.

FREE PROGRAMS AROUND TOWN

"CENTRIC 40: WENDA GU--RED BLACK WHITE"

Aug 28-Oct 21; reception Aug 30, University Art Museum, California State University, Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, (213) 985-5761 Hours: Tues-Thurs & Sat, 11am-5pm; Fri, 12-5pm Donation suggested; Free campus parking (call to reserve);

Once abundantly praised in official Chinese art circles, Wenda Gu is now criticized for the political undertones of his work and its alleged "self-centeredness." His art is indeed obsessed with individual creativity and the task of balancing his Chinese cultural inheritance with his Western-style philosophy. "Centric 40: Wenda Gu--Red Black White" is a bold multimedia installation that questions the notion of artistic harmony. This will be the first Los Angeles showing of works by this young breakthrough artist.

CHINESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Sept 15-16, 3pm Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr., La Cañada-Flintridge Adm. to Gardens Adults \$3, Children \$1

In The spirit of China's great sages, four extraordinary young musicians -- Han Zhiming, Hsiang Hsin-Mei, Han Huaqi and Wu Xiao -- will create the ethereal sounds of China's ancient music. Performing haunting melodies on lutes, zithers, bamboo flutes and harps, they achieve perfect harmony with the surrounding environment. Also performing in Descanso Garden's spacious,

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lush surroundings will be the locally-based BIBAK Cultural Dance Ensemble from the hillsides of the northern Philippines, Mexican, Hawaiian and Ecuadorean musicians.

MOON FESTIVAL

Sept 2, All Day Alpine Recreation Center, 817 Yale St., Chinatown ,

The 1990 Chinatown Moon Festival -- first one in 40 years -- will be produced and hosted by the Chinese Cultural and Community Center of Greater Los Angeles and the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. It's a day-long event of traditional dances, music, opera, poetry and food celebrating the harvest moon, the bounties of nature and the fruits of a summer's hard labors. Partly religious, partly social, partly recreational, the event will be a wholly festive gathering and reunion of families and friends. Lantern parades of marching children will promenade through Chinatown; and the Moon Festival banquet will feature musical performances and a fashion show of classical dress. Performers and artists at this event will include **Tyrus Wong** (kite making), **Wei-Pin Hsu** (potter's wheel), **Yom Fong** (watercolors), **Jake Lee** (watercolors), **David and Kim Svenson** (shadow puppets), **Kei and Lauren Okayama & Castelar Kids** (lion dancing and traditional folk dances), **Chinese Kun Opera Society**, and **Frank Ignacio** (lantern master). The day will culminate in an evening of moon-viewing through the Griffith Observatory Traveling Telescope. For further information, call 485-5448.

Los Angeles Festival programs will take place at over 60 venues throughout Greater Los Angeles, including theaters, parks, galleries and other sites, linking communities from the Pacific beaches, urban centers and ethnic neighborhoods. The support of public and private corporations and philanthropic foundations has enabled the L.A. Festival to present about 70 percent of the programs admission free.

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